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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Atty. Dkt.: Q64055

Kunio SAEGUSA, et al.

Appln. No. 09/832,209

Group Art Unit: Unknown

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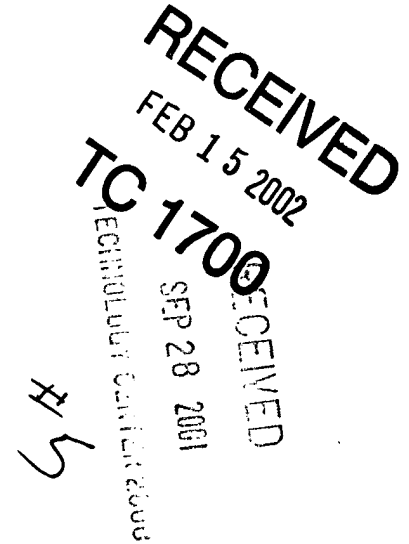
**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

1. Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 11-60273, published March 2, 1999, with English Abstract.
2. Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 11-92171, published April 6, 1999, with English Abstract.
3. Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 8-321257, published December 3, 1996, with English Abstract.
4. Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 7-187612, published July 25, 1995, with English Abstract.
5. U.S. Patent No. 5,688,480, issued November 18, 1997 to Mohri et al. This patent corresponds to Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 7-187612, listed above.
6. Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2001-72418, published March 21, 2001, with English Abstract.
7. Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2001-72434, published March 21, 2001, with English Abstract.



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Information Disclosure Statement

8. European Patent Application No. 1 065 693 A2, published January 3, 2001. This application corresponds to Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publications Nos. 2001-72418 and 2001-72434, listed above.


One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date for an application other than a continued prosecution application (CPA) under §1.53(d); (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant relies on the English Abstracts as their brief statements of relevance.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,


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